

THE SUN, SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 1885.—TWELVE PAGES.

WINDING UP THE CENSUS.

PAINTED WITH A HAIR.

The Marvelous Art Work that English Microscopist, was Able to Do.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—Five million dollars and five years have gone, and not one-half of the tenth census is yet printed. And it is doubtful if more than two-thirds of that work ever will see the light. Twelve quarto volumes of an average of 1,000 pages each and profusely illustrated with maps have now been published. These relate to population, manufactures, agriculture and mineral productions, transportation, cotton (two volumes), valuation, taxation and public indebtedness, newspapers, periodicals, and the sea fisheries, forestry (with a large atlas), petroleum and building stones, and the first volume of mortality statistics. It is believed that before the Census Office expiring by limitation, in the 3d of next March, in addition to the volumes named, five more can be published, relating to mortality, social statistics of cities (in two volumes), water power, and mining industries. But, even if these hopes are fully realized, seven large volumes will go by default. Those deal with the defective and delinquent classes, education and churches, the laundries, mechanics, insurance, social statistics of mining and miscellaneous.

The tenth census dragged from the start.

It was crudely conceived and wastefully conducted. Gen. Walker, who alone could have brought the work forward with any measure of success, left it in the lurch, and without his guiding hand it rocked and pitched and drifted like a rudderless ship in the trough of the sea. From time to time it sent up rockets of distress to passing Congresses, and received what aid was needed to keep it afloat, but it was seen long ago to be hopelessly shipwrecked, and now it will soon be abandoned and reported as a total loss.

The idea was to make it positively the biggest thing out in censuses. It was the centennial epoch, and everything was on a sublime scale. Hence the centennial census was to be not merely an enumeration of the people on which to base representation in Congress, but was to be a panorama of the nation in all its relations to nature and society. We were to have topographical, geological, historical, and statistical information, and every item of art, science and industry, and every detail of life, as high as the works of the greatest masters in painting, are valued by artists who work on them, and can paint a complete scene on a surface as small as a postage stamp. It would have been considered skilful, yet Dalton used a single hair for his brush, and dealt with particles of color too minute to be taken up with the aid of his microscope with such accuracy that he finally produced his representations, which are now complete, and which we have examined them critically, have been almost overcome with astonishment. This is one of the wonderful achievements of our time.

He was a fast worker, and, by laboring almost incessantly, he could finish it. I think in three months, or less, he did it.

The Dalton sides are very valuable in America. Among microscopists his work is unsurpassed, and he has done much to bring the art of the microscope into general use.

Although Dalton was dissatisfied, he excelled in his work, and his pictures are among the highest as the works of the great masters in painting.

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